

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings.†

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, Del Monte, California, May 4-7, 1942.

American Medical Association, Atlantic City, June 8-12, 1942.

American Medical Association Meeting of State Medical Association Secretaries and Editors, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Friday and Saturday, November 21-22, 1941.

Forum on Allergy: Fourth Annual Conference, Detroit, Michigan, January 10-11, 1942.

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of federal government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

Medical Broadcasts.*

Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's broadcast schedule for the month of September, 1941:

Saturday, September 6—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, September 6—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, September 13—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Saturday, September 13—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, September 20—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, September 20—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, September 27—KFAC, 8:45 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Saturday, September 27—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Doctor Dukes Named to Commission.—Dr. Charles A. Dukes, prominent East Bay physician and surgeon of 211 The Uplands, Berkeley, was named a member of the Alameda County Institutions Commission, late yesterday by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. His nomination was made by Supervisor Thomas E. Caldecott, also of Berkeley.

Doctor Dukes will fill the unexpired term of the late Dr. William S. Strietmann, who died earlier in the month. Doctor Dukes is vice-president of the American Medical Association.—*Berkeley Gazette*, July 31.

Two Siskiyou Boys Die of Plague from Flea Bites.—

Yreka, Aug. 11.—County medical authorities announced today that the deaths of two young boys had been traced to sylvatic plague, described as a form of bubonic plague.

It was further announced that a drive is being organized to destroy all squirrels, chipmunks, rats, and mice within a five-mile radius of Shasta Valley and later to clear a similar radius around Yreka.

Dr. Albert Newton, public health officer of Siskiyou County, called Dr. Karl Meyer of San Francisco, noted specialist on bubonic plague, here to advise physicians of the county on preventive steps.

Doctor Meyer declared the present outbreak is not contagious—that is, it could not be contracted by association between human beings—but was carried by rodents and their fleas. Residents of the area were warned against contact with rodents.

The two victims were identified by Doctor Newton as Lee Bostmyer, five years old, of Mount Shasta, and Raymond Hart, ten, of Shasta Valley.

The Microfilm Service of the Army Medical Library.

The Army Medical Library in Washington has recently inaugurated Microfilm Service for the benefit of physicians throughout the country, a microfilm being a strip of 35-mm. motion-picture film with images of printed pages photographed on it in sequence. By this method, any article in any one of the 4,034 current medical periodicals taken by the library can be obtained in microfilm copies at a very reasonable price. The charge is 30 cents for each complete article not exceeding thirty pages in length, and 10 cents for each succeeding ten pages or fraction thereof. Thus, an article can be obtained quickly for reading on a microfilm projector. This is particularly valuable for articles appearing in obscure and rare journals. Many of the small medical libraries do not take more than 200 or 300 current periodicals. The large libraries, such as the Boston Medical Library, take 800 or 900, but even this is small when compared with those taken at the Army Medical Library. The

films may be projected and read with a small hand projector; however, in most libraries, large machines are available which throw the pages on a screen two or three feet in size.

How does one find out about an article that is not likely to come to one's attention? To supplement the microfilm service, the Army Medical Library has added another of great importance to the medical profession. A weekly bulletin, *Current List of Medical Literature*, is published. Divided into large subjects, the literature of the week, as received in the Army Medical Library, is listed by the titles of articles occurring in medical periodicals. Thus, by watching one of the forty-four general classifications, a physician interested in keeping current with a special subject can quickly pick up references to that topic in any published periodical received by the library. The lists cover practically all the printed medical matter in the world. In many cases, of course, the periodical may be at hand in his own office or in his own medical library. In cases where this is not so, the Army Medical Library offers a solution for quickly bringing him the article in question. For the research worker, this brings medical literature to his desk almost immediately, three to six months before he could find it in an index, such as the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*.

Both these services are run by the Friends of the Army Medical Library. The library cooperated by providing the necessary space for the work, and by supplying the publications from which the microfilm copies are made. The only cost to the user is for actual labor and material required in making and distributing the microfilm copies. For the *Current List of Medical Literature*, a charge of \$5 a year is made, which it is hoped will cover the cost of issuing this weekly bulletin. It should be pointed out, moreover, that occasionally, in addition to the current list of periodicals, a list of books received in a period of a month or six weeks at the Army Medical Library is also given to subscribers without additional charge.

Thus, the Army Medical Library, the largest and most efficient in the world, becomes a national medical library, serving the medical profession throughout the land. To many, such a course has long been a cherished ideal. With a new building in sight for the library, and with an expanding service, the medical profession should be appreciative of the fact that the Army Medical Library is alive to the present needs of the profession.

Many Refugee Doctors Come to America.—New York, July 28. American physicians, especially here in New York, are manifesting growing concern over the transfusion of foreign refugee doctors into the profession in this country. Already several thousand medical emigrés have been admitted to practice.

Native American doctors who are contemplating entering the country's armed forces in the medical service are apprehensive that their practices may be absorbed by foreigners during their absence. There are complaints of fee-cutting and other unethical acts by the recent European arrivals on file with county medical societies.

Last year 2,092 persons holding certificates from foreign universities (except Canadian) were examined by licensing boards in the various states, according to *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Of this number, 1,429 applied for licenses in New York State.

Year by year the number of candidates from foreign institutions for licensure in the United States has increased.

By far the largest number of candidates come from Germany or countries under Nazi rule. Among the 2,092 applicants for 1940 were 1,378 from Germany or countries under Nazi rule. Among the 2,092 applicants for 1940 were 1,378 from Germany and of that number, 613 bore credentials from the University of Vienna.

Most liberal in admitting refugee physicians to examination and practice are the states of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maryland, where first citizenship papers are virtually the only requirement.

Sixteen states, taking the position they are unable to evaluate foreign credentials because of the war abroad, do not admit holders of such certificates to examination. Nineteen states require full citizenship—which takes five years to achieve. Prerequisites in other states include basic science credits, internship in American hospitals, and work in United States approved medical schools. . . .

The problem of the refugee physician was a burning one at the recent convention of the American Medical Association, and the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of New York presented a resolution asking that the practices of native American doctors and their hospital associations be protected while they are in military service.

Some American doctors are suggesting that the plea of President Roosevelt and the British Red Cross for one thousand physicians to volunteer for service in England be met by sending refugees.—Tempe, Arizona, *News*, July 29.

California Society for Crippled Children.—The California Society for Crippled Children and its county societies, in cooperation with the National Society for Crippled Children, announces the 1941 Area Institute for lay and professional friends of the crippled and disabled.

The purpose of the Area Institute is to inform the people of California of the services available for crippled children and physically handicapped persons, and how best to utilize these services.

The Institute is important to all professional groups and members of crippled children societies; crippled children, underprivileged and child welfare committees of service clubs; women's organizations, and fraternal orders; American Legion and its Auxiliary, Parent-Teacher Associations, and other organizations and interested individuals.

Further information may be secured from Warren E. Griffith, Executive Secretary, California Society for Crippled Children, 251 Kearny Street, San Francisco.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 2—Weed, California

1:30 p. m., Grammar School Auditorium

Chairman: Mrs. L. L. Lichens, President, Siskiyou County Society for Crippled Children.

Introduction of Discussion Participants: Warren E. Griffith, Executive Secretary, California Society for Crippled Children.

Round-table session—Informal discussion from the floor. Counties included in this area meeting: Siskiyou, Shasta, and Trinity.

Thursday, September 4—San Francisco

1:30 p. m., Palace Hotel

Chairman: Mrs. T. E. Shucking, President, San Francisco Guild for Crippled Children.

Opening Address: Albert F. Roller, President, California Society for Crippled Children.

Round-table session—Informal discussion from the floor. Counties included in this area meeting: San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, San Joaquin, Monterey, Mendocino, and Sonoma.

Thursday, September 11—San Diego

12:10 p. m., San Diego Hotel

Luncheon meeting with San Diego Rotary Club.

1:45 p. m., Institute

Chairman: William H. Evans, President, Society for Crippled Children of San Diego County, Inc.

Introduction of Discussion Participants: Warren E. Griffith, Executive Secretary, California Society for Crippled Children.

Round-table session—Informal discussion from the floor. Counties included in this area meeting: San Diego and Imperial.

Friday, September 12—Los Angeles

2 p. m., Biltmore Hotel, Music Room

Chairman: Lawrence L. Frank, President, Crippled Children's Society of Los Angeles County.

Opening Address: Albert F. Roller, President, California Society for Crippled Children.

Round-table session—Informal discussion from the floor.

All visitors to the Institute are welcome to attend the regular Rotary luncheon meeting at 12 noon in the Biltmore Hotel.

Counties included in this area meeting: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, and Santa Barbara.

Monday, September 15—Fresno

12:15 p. m., Hotel Californian

Luncheon meeting with Fresno Rotary Club.

1:45 p. m., Institute

Chairman: Mrs. Charles Winchell, President, Fresno County Society for Crippled Children.

Opening Address: Albert F. Roller, President, California Society for Crippled Children.

Round-table session—Informal discussion from the floor.
4:45 p. m.

Annual business session of the California Society for Crippled Children.

Reports of officers and committees.

Election of officers and members of the Executive Committee for 1941-1942.

All visitors to this Institute session are invited to remain for the business session, which will be very brief.

Counties included in this area meeting: Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings, Merced, and Stanislaus.

Los Angeles County Tuberculosis Sanatorium: Medical Director Sought.—Seeking an outstanding physician for an important position, the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission has just announced an open competitive examination for medical director of the county tuberculosis sanatorium. The salary for the position is \$500 a month and the usual three-year county residence requirement has been waived, thus allowing all qualified men who are United States citizens to participate in this examination.

In order to qualify to take the examination, men between the ages of 35 and 55 must have been graduated from an approved medical school with a degree of M. D. and have had at least five years' experience as a specialist in the treatment of tuberculosis. Of the five years' experience, three or more must have been in a responsible administrative and executive capacity in a sanatorium or hospital.

Application blanks and additional information regarding the position can be obtained from the office of the Civil Service Commission, Room 102, County Hall of Records, Los Angeles, California. Applications must be filed with the Commission by Wednesday, October 15.

Olive View Sanatorium is located in the foothills of the San Fernando Valley, approximately twenty-five miles from the center of the city of Los Angeles. In addition to 1,150 patients at the Sanatorium, 300 patients are housed in a sanatorium camp at Acton, California, and 100 patients are housed in private institutions by contract with the county. Medical care and treatment of all patients are under the direction of the Medical Director of Olive View Sanatorium.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Four County Medical Societies Hold Meeting in Vallejo

The Solano County Medical Association this week was host to more than 159 physicians of Napa, Sonoma, and Marin counties, and newspapermen, state senators and assemblymen, and city and county officials of those and other districts at a dinner in the Vallejo Country Club, held on Tuesday, July 22.

It was the annual meeting of the physicians of the four counties, and was presided over by Dr. John W. Green, general chairman and toastmaster. Doctor Green is councilor for the Ninth District of the California Medical Association. More than one hundred of those present are practicing physicians, coming to Vallejo from Sacramento,

Oakland, San Francisco, Burlingame, and as far south as Fresno.

Regular business of the Association was not considered. The entire evening was taken up by a banquet, entertainment, and brief talks from several of the distinguished guests.

Dr. H. L. Rogers, President of the California State Medical Association, was among those present. Accompanying him was George H. Kress of San Francisco, State Secretary of the Association, Executive Secretary Hunton of Los Angeles and Hartley Peart of San Francisco, attorney for the Association.

Other guests included Captain R. G. Davis, executive officer at the Naval Hospital, Mare Island; Captain J. R. Holman, Captain George W. Shepard, navy yard medical officer, and approximately fifteen other officers.

Guests from out of the city present were Assemblyman Roger Pfaff of Los Angeles, State Senator Thomas Keating of Marin County; Senator Herbert Slater of Sonoma; Senator Frank Gordon of Napa; Senator Thomas McCormack of Rio Vista; Assemblyman Ernest Crowley of Suisun; Senator Tony DeLappe of Richmond; Assemblyman Richard McCollister of Sonoma and Marin counties; Superior Judge Hillard Comstock, Santa Rosa; Superior Judge Butler of Sutter County. Superior Judge W. T. O'Donnell of Solano County and Superior Judge Percy King of Napa were unable to attend, being away on annual vacation.

Newspapermen and publishers of the various districts were headed by Publishers Luther E. Gibson and Robert L. Jones of Vallejo. Among other guests were members of the Board of Supervisors and other county and city officials.

Arrangements for the affair were directed by Doctors H. Brownlie Perkins, Carlton Purviance, and H. R. Madeley.—*Rio Vista News*, July 24.

* * *

Health Bureau Savings Urged

Councilman Roy Hampton suggested yesterday that Los Angeles avail itself of a State law and save \$500,000 a year by contracting to have the County Health Department take over the work of the City Health Department.

Shortly before introduction of the resolution, President Maurice Sparing of the City Health Commission visited the Council and introduced Dr. George M. Uhl, recently appointed city health officer, pending a civil service examination.

Hampton's resolution proposes that the Bureau of Budget and Efficiency make a survey and analysis of the situation, reporting its findings to the Council.

Hampton said city taxpayers provide 58 per cent of the operating expenses of the County Health Department, for which they receive very little in return. He cited instances where city, county, and state health men make parallel inspections of dairies, packing plants and the like.

His resolution was approved unanimously.—*Los Angeles Times*, August 13.

* * *

Social Security Board Is Somewhat Inconsistent

Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the Social Security Board, told a congressional committee the other day that our Social Security program should be broadened.

The nation, he said, should have a system of health insurance, pensions for the totally and permanently disabled, and wider participation by the Federal Government in state welfare programs.

But is this the time to undertake such a program?

The country is faced with staggering bills for the defense program, bills which may be tripled, quadrupled, or worse, before we are out of the woods of the uncertain and steadily deteriorating international situation.

To carry out the Altmeyer program would superimpose additional millions and perhaps billions on the federal budget. It simply is not within the limits of what can be attempted at this time. . . .—*Sacramento Bee*, July 26.

* * *

Catholic Women Told to Fight Birth Control

New York, August 19 (AP).—Delegates to the convention of the National Catholic Women's Union were told today that "our present-day marriage is, in many instances, a cloak for immorality."

The Rev. Hubert Beller of St. Gerard's Maternity Guild of the New York branch of the National Catholic Women's Union, urged his hearers to meet the challenge of birth control and declared:

"There are 2,000,000 fewer children in the public schools today than there were a decade ago. Fully 60 per cent of the families in the United States have either no children at all, or only one or two.

"One marriage out of six ends in divorce. Fifty per cent of the persons who become divorced have no children and a further 25 per cent have only one child per family."—*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 20.